



## Specialist High Skills Major Fact Sheet

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program, which is part of the Ministry of Education's Student Success initiative in the province of Ontario, has been introduced to offer province-wide specialized programs in specific ministry-identified sectors to support the success of all students. The SHSM Program has a number of required components, designed to give students a "leg-up" to pursue post-secondary opportunities in each of the identified sectors, valuing all 4 destinations. The components are as follows:

- **Bundled Credits:** Each SHSM program offers students a bundle of 9 - 11 credits, including:
  - 4 "major" credits in the identified sector in Grade 11 and Grade 12
  - 2 or 3 supporting credits in English, math or science that will be delivered in the context of that sector
- **Contextualized Learning Activities:** Supporting credits, such as English, math, science or business include units and other opportunities for SHSM students to learn in the context of the sector they have chosen
  - i.e. a student taking a SHSM construction program completes a unit in their math course determining the proper measurements to build a construction project
- **Certifications and Awareness Training:** Sector-recognized certifications related to the major and selected from a list, both generic and specific to support the sector (i.e. WHMIS, First Aid, CAD / CAM Training)
- **Experiential Learning Opportunities:**
  - Job-shadowing, job-twinning, work experience
  - Minimum of 2 cooperative education credits linked to the major
  - Field trips, other workplace experiences for students to explore careers related to that sector
- Documentation of Essential Skills and Work Habits through the **Ontario Skills Passport**
- **Reach Ahead Experiences:** Within the student's chosen post-secondary destination, ranging from a few hours to full courses (dual credit programs)
- Clearly valuing and providing a **pathway to all four post-secondary destinations**, apprenticeship, college, university and work

## **SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR PROGRAMS IN HALTON**

Agriculture, Arts and Culture, Business, Construction, Energy, Environment, Health & Wellness,  
Horticulture & Landscaping, Hospitality & Tourism, Information and Communications  
Technology, Justice, Community Safety and Emergency Services, Manufacturing, Social Justice  
(Non-Profit), Sports and Transportation

**For more information on Specialist High Skills Major programs visit [www.haltonpathways.ca](http://www.haltonpathways.ca)  
or <http://www.hdsb.ca/Pathways/Pages/Home.aspx>**